

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 OMB-01 EB-11 EUR-25 RSR-01 INRE-00

TRSE-00 L-03 MC-02 DODE-00 /099 W

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P 290845 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6281

S E C R E T KUWAIT 0980

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS KU

SUBJECT: INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT FOR KUWAITI AIR FORCE

REF: KUWAIT 0943

1. NOW THAT GOK IS CLEARLY IN PROCESS MAKING MAJOR DECISIONS ON ITS DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS, IT SEEMS MORE AND MORE APPARENT THAT FRENCH F-1 MIRAGE HAS LEAD OVER F-5 IN KUWAITI THINKING. WE HAVE WORKED OVERTIME ON THIS ONE BUT DESPITE ALL TYPES OF BRIEFINGS OF KUWAIT AIRFORCE, PROVISION OF WRITTEN MATERIAL, VISIT OT EUROPEAN BASES, REPEATED TALKS WITH MINDEF, FONMIN, AND CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. MUBARAK, KUWAITI AIR FORCE OFFICERS (WHOM MINDEF SA' AD INSISTS HAVE FINAL SAY) APPARENTLY STILL CONVISED F-5 DOES NOT RPT NOT HAVE CLOUT THEY LOOKING FOR. (THOSE WHO WERE WORRIED ABOUT SHOWING KUWAITIS F-4 FOR FEAR THEY WOULD REQUEST IT WILL BE INTERESTED IN FOMIN' S COMMENT TO ME THAT KUWAIT AIR FORCE TOO UNDERMANNED TO TAKE ON F-4 WHICH IS TWO- SEATER.)

2. I HAVE AGAIN WRITTEN TO MINDEF, COPY TO FONMIN, POINTING OUT KUWAITIS WISE IN CHOOSING AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM BUT AIRCRAFT VITAL PART OF AIR DEFENSE, AND AIRCRAFT CHOSEN SHOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH IT. THIS MEANS AMERICAN AIRCRAFT AND WE HAVE ADVISED PURCHASE OF F-5.

3. WE WILL KEEP PLUGGING AWAY ON F-5 TO END BUT I WOULD LIKE
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WARN THAT PROSPECTS DO NOT LOOK TOO GOOD. I RECOMMEND WE
DEVELOP " ULTIMATE" USG POSITION, FAST, RE AIRCRAFT FOR KUWAIT.
IF GOK DECIDES TURN DOWN F-5 AND WANTS MIRAGE, SHALL WE LET
MATTER DROP, OR ARE WE PREPARED UP ANTE? COULD WE OFFER
SINGLE SEAT F-4, FOR EXAMPLE? COULD WE OFFER SELL COBRA OR
F-15 SOME YEARS DOWN ROAD IF THEY BUY F-5 NOW? REALIZE I AM
REACHING PRETTY FAR, BUT MY BASIC QUESTION IS HOW FAR ARE WE
PREPARED GO TO CONVINCE KUWAITIS TO BUY US FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FOR
ITS AIR FORCE.
STOLTZFUS

SECRET

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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30 JUN 2005

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